

February changes [as of 2/7]	
C FUND	+ 0.88 percent
I FUND	+ 1.51 percent
S FUND	+ 1.91 percent



'Mikey' visits community member

Mikey Teutul, [right] of Orange County Choppers fame, made a visit to one of his greatest fans, West Point community member Amanda Habig, [second from left] Feb 1. Amanda's father, Lt. Col. Lawrence Habig, is an Army Reservist with the 411th Engineering Brigade out of New Windsor, N.Y., and is currently in Iraq. [See related story on page 5] KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Budget request highlights Army needs

WASHINGTON [Army News Service] -- A 3-percent pay raise for servicemembers, an increase in ground forces and continued funding of the war on terror are on the table now that President Bush delivered his fiscal 2008 defense budget request and 2007 emergency supplemental request to Congress Monday.

The total Department of Defense 2008 budget request is pegged at \$481.4 billion, an 11.3-percent increase over fiscal 2007. The request will improve readiness through additional training and maintenance and by resetting forces following overseas deployments, Defense Secretary Robert M. Gates said Monday at a Pentagon news conference.

"We will transform our military to meet the new threats of the 21st century and provide the brave men and women on the front

lines with resources they need to be successful in this decisive ideological struggle," President Bush said in his letter delivering the budget to Congress.

The President's emergency supplemental request for fiscal 2007 is set at \$93.4 billion, with \$39.3 billion going to warfighting, supplies, support and maintenance. It also provides \$10.4 billion to defeat IEDs.

The requests must be passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate, both of which may make changes in the requests.

Pentagon Comptroller Tina W. Jonas told reporters that DOD has delivered more than 38,000 pages of explanation to members of Congress and their staffs to justify the issues in the defense budget request.

The 2008 "base budget" invests in four primary areas, Jonas said:

readiness and support at \$146.5 billion, strategic modernization at \$176.8 billion, military pay and health care at \$137 billion and family housing and facilities at \$21.1 billion.

Jonas broke the military pay and benefits portion of the budget down further. The department's request provides a 3 percent pay raise for 2.1 million active-duty and reserve-component personnel. It provides \$15 billion for the basic allowance for housing and \$4.3 billion for the basic allowance for subsistence. It also provides \$38.7 billion for military health care.

Growing the Army

Under the proposal, the active-duty Army will grow to 547,400 Soldiers by the end of fiscal 2012. It now has 484,400 Soldiers. The

See BUDGET on page 3

Spiral 1.3 unveiled; will take affect this spring

By Irene Brown
Chief, Command Information

The National Security Personnel System Executive Office officially notified Congress Jan. 25 of its intention to implement the next phase of the NSPS. Spiral 1.3, which will impact more than 27,000 non-bargaining unit garrison employees across the Army, including more than 80 employees here, will take affect in March and April.

"A conversion zone over a two-month period gives us maximum opportunity to ensure we train our employees prior to implementation," NSPS officials explained. "We want to give organizations sufficient time to do the training, do it right and implement when they are ready."

Only non-bargaining unit employees are currently being transferred to NSPS due to ongoing litigation brought by several federal employee unions. However, although the court ruled in the union's favor on some aspects, they did not enjoin the entire system.

"Major portions of the human resources system [performance management, classification, compensation, staffing and workforce shaping] were not covered by the Court's decision," DOD officials explained. "We have elected to implement the NSPS human resources system to non-bargaining unit employees until the litigation is resolved."

Colonel Brian Crawford, West Point's garrison commander, first told employees about the impending changes during a town hall meeting in December.

"This is your part of Army Transformation," Crawford said. "This new system is based on the private sector and will change the way you are rated and rewarded."

The next step, Crawford said, was for the NSPS transition team to schedule training sessions for supervisors and employees. This training, he said, is critical to the successful transition to NSPS.

"I expect 100 percent participation in this training

endeavor," he said. "Knowledge is power and it is imperative that we make every effort to learn as much about NSPS as possible."

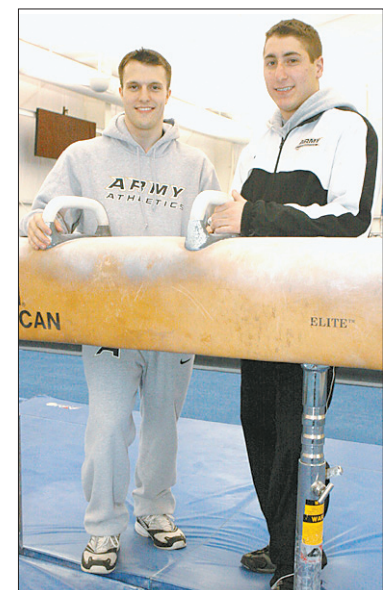
"Supervisors started their training in early January and non-supervisors will attend training in February," said Michael Bilello, the garrison NSPS transition team manager. "We are committed to ensuring our employees and managers have an appropriate understanding of the system and their roles."

There are also several online courses that not only explain how to navigate NSPS, but also provide tips to managers on how to motivate workers using the system, Bilello added.

"The performance management for managers and supervisors courses are required before any supervisor of civilians, including military supervisors, may evaluate their employees," he said.

For more information on NSPS, visit <http://www.cpms.osd.mil/nsps/>. For more information on the training here, call 845-938-8193 or send an e-mail to Michael. Bilello@us.army.mil.

INSIDE



GYMNASTICS GEARS UP FOR NAVY, pages 14-15

Community Point-of-View

Managers critical to employee engagement

**Commentary submitted
by ADCO Employee
Assistance Program**

Years of research have focused on designing successful reward programs that keep employees engaged and productive. But most are missing a key trick because one critical audience -- the line manager -- is often overlooked.

That's the message of a new book, "The Manager's Guide to Rewards", co-authored by Hay Group consultants, Doug Jensen, Tom McMullen and Mel Stark. "The most well-designed employee rewards programs fall flat without

proper execution. Line managers, who ultimately serve as the face of an organization to its many employees, are typically the ones who can make or break their success."

The most successful managers, the book argues, are those who recognize and use a variety of tools to reward employees -- from linking specific performance measures with larger goals for the organization, to recognizing and rewarding valuable employee contributions, to clearly defining job roles. In fact, Hay Group research has shown up to 30 per cent of variance in business results can be explained

by differences in the work climate created by managers.

"Managers who are able to create an all-around engaging work climate can have an invaluable effect on an employee's commitment to a company and the productivity a group of employees can generate," Stark said.

Managers are also a vital component in delivering intangible rewards like flexible work hours, career growth, recognition, leadership and job enablement, the book argues.

"Competitive pay and benefits gets you in the game but it's no guarantee you'll win the race,"

McMullen said. "It's the intangibles that are the hardest things for competitors to imitate. One of the most surprising things we learned while developing the book was the prevalence and density with which employees cited these non-monetary issues as being most valuable to them. This is also a key area where managers can make a significant and positive impact."

Recognizing employees for some of the everyday things that often go unnoticed, providing feedback and coaching on how individuals can do things better and looking for opportunities for staff development will all reap big

dividends. Managers should also be clear about the cultural attributes the company seeks to encourage, support and reward.

"Career development is one aspect of the reward system that both employees and employers typically breeze over," Stark said. "Designing and implementing a finely-tuned career development program can be a time-consuming and laborious investment for companies, but this type of dedication and long-term commitment to people lends itself to rewarding experiences for the workforce and payback for the company. "Employees are more likely to stay in organizations that say they care about their people's development and really do something about it."

Adapted from www.management-issues.com.

Interactive Customer Evaluation program needs you

**Commentary by
Bryan McDowell
PAI, ICE Program Manager**

The Interactive Customer Evaluation Program would like to hear from you, the customer, about our program.

Please let us know what you think and what we can do better to further encourage you to use our system. The ICE program has been at West Point for three years now and we want to our customers to use this very efficient method of collecting a consensus on how they feel about the services we perform.

The program already has been

useful to our managers in correcting service quality and giving praise to our employees for jobs well done. Here is your chance to make a difference in the program that allows you to voice your opinions and make a difference.

If you have suggestions about the program, please go to <http://ice.disa.mil> [type USMA in the search field] and make your comments through the Site comment section of the Web site.

Your comments are appreciated. Look for more articles explaining some of the changes that you have made to the program.

There are currently service providers that may or may not

fit into the categories that are listed in ICE. A future article will discuss the services that the Plans, Analysis and Integration Office offers to customers that use its services.

These service providers can be located in the ICE program under the Administration category on the front page of the USMA ICE page. The services are Commercial

Activities Program [CA], Army Suggestion Program [ASP], Productivity Management Review [PMR], Army Communities of Excellence [ACOE], Service Based Costing [SBC], Common Levels of Support [CLS], Installation Status Report [ISR], Contract Approval Process and the Mass Transit Fringe Benefit Program [MTFB].

SARP INFO

The members of the Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Team are Col. Jeanette McMahon, Shelley Ariosto (Garrison), Maj. Samantha Breton (USCC), Maj. Kim Kawamoto (ODIA) and Lt. Col. Robbie Williams (Dean). Community members can e-mail McMahon at Jeanette.McMahon@usma.edu for advice or to offer any recommendations on the program here. Cadets can also call the sexual assault support helpline at (845) 591-7215. West Point Soldiers and civilians needing assistance can call (845) 938-3369.

Weekly Sudoku by Chris Okasaki, D/EECS

			7			6		
	8	9	4					
		6		9			1	
	1		8			9		
	3		2		5		4	
		7			6		8	
	9			3		4		
					4	5	3	
		1			9			

Rules: Fill in the empty cells with the digits 1-9 so that no

digit appears twice in the same row, column, or 3-by-3 box.

Difficulty: Medium

See Solution on Page 9

POINTER VIEW®

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Local and National News

Four cadets charged

WEST POINT, N.Y. -- Charges were preferred Monday against four cadets for drug-related offenses.

Cadet 4th Class Bradley Simms was charged with one violation of Article 112a [Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance-marijuana], one violation of Article 112a [Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance-cocaine], one violation of Article 112a [Wrongful Distribution of a Controlled Substance-cocaine] and one violation of Article 134 [Obstruction of Justice] of the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Cadet 3rd Class Jordan Yeargain was charged with one violation of Article 112a [Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance-cocaine], one violation of Article 112a [Wrongful Distribution of a Controlled Substance] and one violation of Article 134 [Obstruction of Justice] of the UCMJ.

Cadet 2nd Class Troy Wilson was charged with one violation of Article 112a [Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance-cocaine] of the UCMJ.

Cadet 4th Class Ryan Pope was charged with one violation of Article 112a [Wrongful Use of a Controlled Substance-cocaine] of the UCMJ.

The cadets will continue with their regular duties and are not in pretrial confinement.

They are presumed innocent until proven guilty in trials by court-martial. Cadets, like other members of the military, are subject to military law contained in the UCMJ, a federal statute.

The preferring of charges against a service member is the first step in the court-martial process. The next step is a pretrial investigation pursuant to Article 32, which is similar to a civilian grand jury.

The Article 32 pretrial investigation hearing, however, provides greater procedural rights for the defendant: the right to be present during the public hearing, the right to present evidence, the right to cross-examine witnesses and the right to have a defense lawyer.

The pretrial investigation will be conducted by a military officer at West Point.

The evidence obtained and the investigator's recommendation will be provided to a senior military officer who may then dispose of the case or recommend a trial by court-martial to the Superintendent, the senior officer at West Point.

BUDGET, cont. from page 1

increase will allow the Army to field 48 brigades - up from 42 - and give Soldiers two years at their home stations for every year deployed.

If the budget is enacted as submitted, the Army will also receive \$130.1 billion in fiscal 2008, for an increase of more than 20 percent.

The Army's Future Combat System will receive \$3.7 billion in research and development funds. Unmanned aerial and ground vehicles, non-line-of-sight launch systems and command and control systems are highlighted in the program.

The Army is asking for just more than \$24 billion in procurement dollars. About \$4 billion will go toward aircraft purchases, including 37 armed reconnaissance, 44 light utility helicopters, 42 UH-60 Black Hawk helicopters and 29 CH-

47 Chinook helicopters. The remaining funds are earmarked for modifications to current aircraft inventory.

Another \$3 billion will go toward Army combat and support vehicles, with the largest slice going for 127 Stryker combat vehicles and 180 armored security vehicles.

The Army will spend another \$1 billion on weapons and other combat vehicles, including \$97.6 million for nearly 70,000 M-4 carbine rifles and \$35.3 million for more than 8,300 M-249 squad automatic weapons.

More than \$4.6 billion is earmarked for tactical and support vehicles. Communications and electronics equipment rings in at more than \$5.7 billion, and other support equipment tops out at roughly \$2.3 billion.

The budget request highlights the importance of space-based

systems for today's military. The request calls for \$6 billion for command and control, navigation, strategic/tactical communications and weather satellites. This includes the next generation NAVSTAR Global Positioning System satellite constellation.

The request also asks for \$2 billion to train and equip Iraqi security forces and \$2.7 billion for Afghan security forces. The request provides \$1.7 billion for coalition support efforts and \$1 billion to replenish the Commander's Emergency Response Program, which allows commanders down to brigade level to fund projects in neighborhoods that benefit the community and put unemployed Iraqis and Afghans to work.

[Editor's Note: This article is combined from Armed Forces Press Release stories by Jim Garamone and Fred W. Baker III.]

Changes to Leader Development for civilians

What is the civilian education system?

By Kathleen Ridgeway
Civilian Personnel Advisory
Center

The Civilian Education System is a new progressive and sequential leader development program that provides enhanced development and education opportunities for Army civilians throughout their careers.

CES was developed as part of the Army Training and Leader Development for civilian employees. The CES provides courses for managers, supervisors, team leaders and interns. Under this program, training is mandatory. The courses will be presented in both an online distributed learning and a resident environment. Appropriated

Fund, Non-Appropriated Fund and Federal Wage System employees are eligible for the CES.

How does it apply to civilians at West Point?

Civilians in identified positions must complete the required phases of the CES program. During the mandatory time requirements on course completion. Activity managers and supervisors will identify the required CES courses for each designated position.

Managers and supervisors must ensure that employees assigned to team leaders, supervisors or managers are nominated in a timely manner in order to meet regulatory completion requirements.

The requirements of the CES should be documented in the employee's Individual Development Plan.

What courses are part of the CES Leader Development Plan?

The CES is comprised of four courses the Foundation, Basic, Intermediate and Advanced Courses. With the exception of the Foundation Course, each course has two phases -- a distributed learning portion that must be completed prior to attendance at the resident portion and a residential portion.

The CES course schedule and course registration is available through the Army Management Staff College Web site at <http://www.amsc.belvoir.army.mil/ces/>. Attendance is centrally funded [travel and per diem].

The Intermediate Course location [Fort Belvoir or Fort Leavenworth] selection will be based on seat availability. Lodging will be at Fort Belvoir, Va., and Fort

Leavenworth, Kan.

Can other courses substitute or be credited in place of the CES courses?

Yes. The CES allows for course credit or course substitution for training. Army employees who have completed similar or more advanced training through legacy civilian leader development may receive credit for equivalent training.

Constructive credit may be granted in lieu of course completion based on assignment history and past academic experiences. In all cases, the Training and Doctrine Command as the executive agent will assess past civilian or military experience. Procedures are outlined in the CES policy and will be further developed as phases of the CES are fully implemented.

How can the Civilian Personnel Advisory Center assist in implementing the CES?

While most of the requirements for CES are a management and employee responsibility, the CPAC can advise on the requirements, provide data to activities on training completions within the automated personnel system specific to employees and can provide reports on supervisory and leader positions within activities.

Vacancy announcements for supervisory/managerial positions must include the statement for the required training.

Questions concerning the CES and how the requirements apply to civilian employees should be directed to Kathleen Ridgeway at the CPAC, telephone number 845-938-3704 or e-mail kathleen.ridgeway@us.army.mil.

Delivery problems?

For PV home delivery problems contact Valerie Mullane at the Poughkeepsie Journal at (845) 437-4730 or by e-mail at vmullane@poughkee.gannett.com.

Civilian Education System

transforming leaders through education



New Handbook helps Soldiers survive first 100 days in Iraq

By Paul D. Prince

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- A new handbook on how Soldiers can survive their first 100 days in Iraq is now available at <https://call2.army.mil/new/toc.asp?document=2393>.

"Soldier Handbook: Surviving Iraq," was developed because of the increased casualty rate during the first 100 days of a unit's deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, according Col. Steven Mains, director of the Center for Army Lessons Learned at Fort Leavenworth, Kan.

The handbook educates Soldiers on how not to become complacent to potential dangers and to be mindful of resourceful enemies who closely observe U.S. tactics to enable them to adapt their attack strategies, Mains said.

The handbook is based on responses from more than 1,700

surveys from captains, lieutenants and Soldiers from the ranks of staff sergeant and below. About 1,000 of the responses were taken from interviews with redeploying units in Kuwait and Soldiers at Fort Hood, Texas; Fort Carson, Colo. and Fort Stewart, Ga.

The Soldiers were asked questions pertaining to individual Soldier behavior, unit leadership, equipment and pre-deployment training.

"Our intention was to learn from the Soldiers what they thought contributed to their survival in Iraq," said Milton Hileman, senior military analyst for CALL. "We asked them to focus their answers as if they were talking from one Soldier to another."

The remaining responses came from a 23-question survey that CALL placed on its Web site.

"We were pleased with [the] numerous responses we received

from many of the Soldiers," Hileman said. "The Soldiers in many cases were very insightful."

"Several Soldiers came up to me after filling out the survey and said 'Thank you for asking,'" said James Gebhardt, senior military analyst for CALL. "They had a sense of self-worth and self-importance."

Among other recommendations, many Soldiers recommended:

- Staying aware of their surroundings,
- Listening to their leaders,
- Avoiding routine or predictable patterns,
- Following standard operating procedures, and
- Using protective gear and armored vehicles.

The handbook will be made available in paper format this month.

Community Features and Photos

American Choppers' Mikey brightens a girl's day with visit

Story and photo by
Kathy Eastwood
Staff Writer

Mikey Teutul of Orange County Choppers, located in Montgomery, N.Y., made a surprise visit to a community member here Feb. 1 thrilling an ardent fan.

Amanda Habig, who has cerebral palsy is a serious fan of The Learning Channel's "American Choppers" and is a big fan of Mikey.

"I love the show," said Terri Habig, Amanda's mother. "I got everyone hooked on the program, but when Mikey came on board Amanda just fell in love with him because of his sarcasm and humor."

Amanda's father, Lt. Col. Lawrence Habig, a Reservist with the 411th Engineering Brigade headquartered in New Windsor, N.Y., is currently deployed in Iraq. A former co-worker of Lawrence's, Peter Boyle, set the visit up.

"Orange County Choppers was to come to the dedication

of the new Reserve building at Stewart Airport last year, but was unable to make it due to another commitment," Terri said. "We were all disappointed."

A year later and because it was close to Amanda's birthday [March 18th], Lawrence, with the help of Boyle, talked to OCC.

"They were supposed to set up a tour," Terri said. "[But] their shop is not handicapped accessible, so it was set up for Mikey to come to the house to visit Amanda."

Amanda attends the Board of Cooperative Education Services in Goshen, N.Y. Mikey and the film crew waited for her to get off the bus and into the house. When Amanda was settled, Mikey hid behind the house, then went to the front door and knocked. Terri opened the door and there was Mikey.

"She [Amanda] was speechless and very surprised when we opened the door and saw him standing there," Terri said. "Amanda had no clue that this was going to happen, although her [nine-year-old] sister,



Mikey Teutul shares birthday cake with the Habig's Feb. 1, while The Learning Channel crew films the visit. The segment is scheduled to air during a future episode of "American Choppers" sometime this spring.

Hunter, and I did."

Mikey presented Amanda with a birthday cake and autographed t-shirts for Amanda and her sister.

"I love children and whenever we have an opportunity to do something like this, we try our best to do it, [although] usually in the form of tours," Teutul said. OCC

is affiliated with the Make-A-Wish Foundation and generally provides tours of their facilities.

This was a special trip for Mikey because Amanda is such a great fan and because her dad is deployed, different circumstances than for many of the Make-A-Wish requests.

Terri explained to Mikey and the OCC crew that Amanda was a premature baby who weighed one-pound, six ounces at birth and was given a 20 percent chance of survival.

"On Amanda's birthdays, I always remember that and I'm so thankful that she has survived and is still with us," Terri said.

Invitations sent for the 45th West Point Camporee, planning begins

**Compiled by
Cadet 2nd Class Ted Halinski
Personnel Officer,
Scoutmasters' Council**

The invitee list for the 45th West Point Camporee to be held May 4-6 at Lake Fredrick has been set. One-hundred twenty-four Boy Scout, Girl Scout and Venture Scout troops will now prepare, gather funding and begin training to put on their best faces for one of the most selective scouting events in the nation. Nineteen states and the District of Columbia are represented in this year's invitees.

According to Lt. Col. John Graham [Club OIC and product of Troop 81 Taegu, Korea], the Boy, Girl and Venture Scouting organizations and the U.S. Military Academy share many of the same ideals of leader and character development. This is evident when viewing the profiles of each new USMA class, where over 400 members indicated they are Scouting participants [approximately 40 percent]. Thus, the Camporee will serve as an excellent opportunity for the Corps of Cadets to serve as role models to rising young leaders of character.

Cadet 2nd Class Ted Halinski, Club S-1 and member of Troop 455 of Johnsbury, Ill., manages the selection process through the use of an algorithm that accounts for various camporee application categories. One of the categories is the size of the troop and whether

they intend to drive or hike to the campsite. Also, the Scoutmasters' Council strives to keep variety in the camporee by inviting different types of troops [Boy Scout, Girl Scout, Venture, etc.] and by picking troops from across the country.

Since its inception, the camporee has been a celebration of the ties between USMA cadets and their scout troops. Therefore, cadet sponsorship is the most heavily weighted criteria in the invitation list. In fact 98 of this year's invitees have a direct relationship with a current cadet at USMA. The cadet organizers give their time planning and executing the camporee as an opportunity to thank the scout troop that nurtured and developed their desire to serve our country and live the scouting life.

Cadet sponsors spend the entire weekend camping with their troop, answering questions and telling stories that help the members of their scout troops process and understand the military, the Army and the USMA.

Cadet 1st Class Josh Jones, Club OIC and member of Troop 279 of Peachtree City, Ga., added that "nearly 200 cadets volunteer to participate in scouting events over the course of the year and the camporee serves as our culminating event -- an average of 3,500 Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts and Venture Scouts travel to West Point to be challenged and inspired.

The camporee is the result of much hard work and dedication and

includes a rigorous hike, a round-robin style competition, a cook-off, campsite/gate-way judging, displays and demonstrations -- and, of course, a campfire."

This year the camporee will not only be a time of interesting events and demonstrations, but also a forum for troops to show off their skills. Points will be awarded in different categories, with an overall best troop determined for each sub-camp and an overall winner for the entire camporee. Winning troops will be recognized at the Awards Ceremony May 6.

The most impressive of the scout troops are called 'Lightfighters.' This year, more than 30 of the Boy and Girl Scout invitees are taking the challenge. While other scout troops will back their vehicles up to their campsite and deposit tents and sleeping bags, the Lightfighters take the hard way -- leaving their vehicles at Camp Natural Bridge and hiking to the camporee site through the woods, to include the infamous Bull Hill. The troops are rewarded upon arrival at Lake Fredrick with a special tab to be worn above the camporee patch and bragging rights, since they completed half of the USMA Cadet Basic Training graduation ruckmarch.

The camporee receives a huge amount of support from across West Point. The Garrison Command provides the use of the campsite, expertise and supporting materials. Other cadet clubs provide

demonstrations, including sky diving, weapons displays, rope bridges, radio operations, music and first aid. USCC and DCA provide leadership and mentorship in executing a large scale military operation.

New this year, cadets from the Systems Engineering program have been analyzed how to optimize the ingress, egress and sustainment operations of the campsite. Systems Engineering Assistant Professor

Maj. Greg Boylan noted, "the scale of the camporee in many ways replicates a real-world military humanitarian aid operation. Cadet teams enrolled in SE450 spent last semester analyzing the terrain, process time and safety issues in housing [more than 3,000] civilians for three days on the West Point Reservation."

Their recommendations will be incorporated into the camporee operational plan and execution.



Cadet 1st Class Mark Quint puts Troop 66 from Baragant, N.J., through a close order drill at last year's Scout Camporee.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV



Ryan Tasker-Benson of Troop 128 from McLean, Va., sights down a M249 SAW under the watchful eye of Cadet 2nd Class Jeff Gray during last year's Scout Camporee.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Deadline nears for Commissary Scholarship program

By Carrie Williams

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- Military families have an opportunity to apply for scholarships for their children at certain commissaries, but they better do it soon -- the deadline is Feb. 21.

The “Scholarships for Military Children” program will be making at least one \$1,500 scholarship available at each commissary location with qualified applicants, Defense Commissary Agency officials here said.

Scholarships are available to unmarried children under 21 [under 23 if enrolled in school] of active-duty, Reserve, Guard and retired personnel.

Program officials use the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System database to determine eligibility. Applicants and sponsors must be enrolled in DEERS and have a current ID card.

“Scholarships for Military Children is a wonderful military community program,” said Patrick Nixon, DeCA director and chief executive officer. “Nearly 3,000 scholarships totaling more than \$4 million have been awarded since the first awards were given in 2001.”

Most of the program’s funds are donated by manufacturers, brokers and suppliers who sell groceries in commissaries and every dollar donated to the program by industry

or the general public goes to fund the scholarships.

The Fisher House Foundation administers the program.

“We’re excited to see this worthwhile program gaining recognition and funding from the community at large,” said Jim Weiskopf, the foundation’s vice president of communications. “Commissary industry support has been amazing, and increased public support can only help ensure that the Scholarships for Military Children program continues to benefit the military community for many years to come.”

“Every cent that community organizations can mobilize to support college-bound students is an investment in the future,” said Joseph Tafoya, director of the DOD Education Activity. “With college costs soaring, our DOD students and their parents appreciate every available scholarship to help defray the cost, and the scholarships enable many of our families to better afford the tuition and provide an incentive for students to work hard. They also demonstrate that military communities are committed to education and increased opportunities for all students.”

Applicants must be planning to attend an accredited college or university full time in the fall term of 2007 or be enrolled in a program designed to transfer directly into a four-year program, officials said. Along with their application, they

must submit an essay on how and why they would change a historical event.

Scholarship applications are available at 263 commissaries worldwide or can be downloaded through links at the Scholarships for Military Children, DeCA and DOD Education Activity’s Web sites.

[**Editor’s Note:** Williams works at the Defense Commissary Agency.]

African-Americans continue tradition of distinguished service

By Gerry J. Gilmore

[Editor's Note: This is Part I of a two-part story on the tradition of African-American distinguished service. The rest of the story will run later this month.]

WASHINGTON (Army News Service) -- African-Americans have a long tradition of honorable and distinguished service in America's armed forces, going back 231 years to the nation's birth -- and even before.

For example, Crispus Attucks was among a group of outraged colonists protesting English rule who died from British soldiers' bullets during the Boston Massacre March 5, 1770. Two other people also were immediately killed, and two others died of their wounds as a result of the encounter.

Attucks' name is the only one Americans commonly remember as among the victims of the shooting. A monument honoring him was placed on Boston Common in 1888.

Five years after the Boston Massacre, Peter Salem was among many African-Americans who fought with other American colonists against the British over possession of Breed's Hill outside Boston. Commonly and mistakenly known as the "Battle of Bunker Hill," the engagement was fought June 17, 1775. It was one of the first military engagements of the

Revolution.

Salem survived that battle, although he mortally wounded the British commander who led the last charge that secured the hill for the British. Salem was commended for his enterprise and courage at Breed's Hill and during subsequent engagements. On a citation signed by 14 senior officers, he was described as "a brave and gallant Soldier" who "behaved like an experienced officer."

It's estimated that 5,000 African-Americans fought on the patriot side during the American Revolutionary War that spanned from 1775 to 1783.

About 180,000 African-Americans wore Union blue and earned praise for their military skill during the American Civil War, fought 1861-1865.

Early in the war, U.S. government skepticism over African-Americans' fighting abilities had kept them mostly off the battlefield. That would change later in the war, when emerging manpower shortages coerced the Union to enlist thousands of African-American troops for front-line duty.

Union soldiers of the 1st Kansas Colored Volunteer Regiment achieved military respect July 17, 1863, by routing a Confederate force after two hours of hard fighting at Honey Springs, in present-day Oklahoma.

"I never saw such fighting as was done by the Negro regiment," Union Commander Gen. James G. Blunt wrote after the Honey Springs battle. "The question that Negroes will fight is settled. Besides, they make better Soldiers in every respect than any troops I have ever had under my command."

African-American troops fighting for the Union distinguished themselves again at the Battle of Chaffin's Farm, Va., which was fought Sept. 29, 1864. After being pinned down by Confederate artillery fire for 30 minutes, the African-American division of the U.S. 18th Corps charged the enemy's earthworks and rushed up the surrounding slopes. The division suffered massive casualties during the hour-long engagement. Of the 25 African-Americans who received the Medal of Honor during the Civil War, 14 were so honored as the result of their service at Chaffin's Farm.

America expanded westward after the Civil War ended, and Soldiers were needed to protect settlers and the railroads from Indian attacks. Although Lt. Col. George A. Custer's 7th Cavalry Regiment is known for its fights against the plains Indians, the 9th and 10th U.S. Cavalry Regiments also gained fame for their exploits against the Indians, both on the plains and in the southwest.

Established in 1866, the 9th and

10th regiments were made up of African-American enlisted Soldiers who were usually commanded by white commissioned officers. The Indians respected the African-American cavalrymen and called them "Buffalo Soldiers" for their fighting prowess.

Army Lt. Henry O. Flipper graduated from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point June 14, 1877, the first African-American to do so and the U.S. military's first African-American commissioned officer. Flipper was assigned to the 10th Cavalry Regiment, where he earned praise for his selfless, capable service. Yet later, Flipper was accused of embezzling government funds. He was tried and judged not guilty of embezzlement, but was dismissed from the service for misconduct in December 1881. After an inquiry, the Department of the Army cleared Flipper of all charges Dec. 13, 1976, and he was honorably discharged.

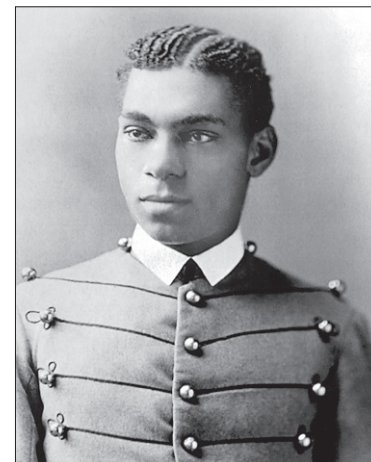
During the course of the Indian Wars fought from 1866 to the early 1890s, 13 enlisted men and six officers from the 9th and 10th regiments and two African-American infantry units earned the Medal of Honor.

During the Spanish-American War, African-American Soldiers with the 9th and 10th Cavalry Regiments and the 24th and 25th Infantry Regiments fought alongside Lt. Col. Teddy Roosevelt and his volunteer unit of "Rough Riders" and defeated Spanish troops at the Battles of Kettle Hill and San Juan Heights, Cuba, July 1, 1898.

Five African-American Soldiers earned Medals of Honor for their heroism during the Spanish-American War. Many African-American households proudly acquired prints featuring resolute, African-American troops charging up San Juan Hill with Roosevelt and his volunteers.

African-American troops again served with distinction during World War I, fought between 1914 and 1918. Although U.S. military units remained segregated by race, African-Americans eagerly volunteered for military service following America's entry into the conflict in April 1917. By the war's end in November 1918, more than 350,000 African-Americans had served with the American Expeditionary Force on the western front in Europe.

Soldiers with the U.S. 369th Infantry Regiment were known as the "Harlem Hellfighters" and served on the front lines for six



Henry O. Flipper [USMA 1877] was the first black cadet to graduate from the U.S. Military Academy. PHOTO COURTESY OF THE USMA LIBRARY ARCHIVES

months, longer than any other African-American regiment in the war. They fought and won alongside the French against the Germans during the pitched battles at Chateau-Thierry and Belleau Wood. The 369th's documented exploits on the western front earned it world respect; 171 of its officers and men received the Legion of Merit. Members of the unit were also the first Americans to be awarded the French Croix de Guerre for valor.

African-American Soldier Cpl. Freddie Stowers heroically served with the U.S. 371st Infantry Regiment in France during World War I. Despite two wounds, Stowers continued to lead his men during an attack on German trenches Sept. 28, 1918. The enemy positions were ultimately taken by the Americans. Stowers died from his wounds. He was recommended to receive the Medal of Honor for his actions, but the nomination paperwork was allegedly misplaced.

In 1991, President George H.W. Bush presented the Medal of Honor to Stowers' relatives in recognition of the corporal's exploits in France 73 years before. Stowers became the only African-American who served during World War I to be awarded the nation's highest military honor.

[Editor's Note: Later this month the the contributions of Africa-Americans to the military will continue from World War II to the present.]



Retired Buffalo Soldiers (left to right) George W. Howe, Henry Washington and Will Harris were part of the contingent who attended the 2005 Buffalo Soldier Memorial ceremony here.

KATHY EASTWOOD/PV

Delivery problems?

FOR PV HOME DELIVERY PROBLEMS CONTACT VALERIE MULLANE AT THE POUGHKEEPSIE JOURNAL AT (845) 437-4730 OR BY E-MAIL AT VMULLANE@POUGHKEE.GANNETT.COM.



FEBRUARY MWR COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Visit MWR online at www.usma.edu/mwr

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<div><div>\$5 OFF</div><div></div><div>\$5 off labor for any custom framing job</div><div>Offer does not apply to do-it-yourself framing jobs.</div><div>Limit 1 per person Expires 3/24/07.</div></div>					<div>9<div>Free Ski/Snowboard Lesson, 2-5pm, WP Ski (Soldiers Only)</div><div>Valentine's Day Party, 6-9pm, YC (grades 6-12)</div><div></div><div>Sam Adams Beer Dinner & Live Music, 6-9pm, WP Club</div></div>	<div>10<div>Pure Energy Step, 8am, Spinning, 10am, Every Saturday at the MWR Fitness Center</div><div></div></div>
<div>11<div></div><div>Open Skate, 3:30-5pm, Tate Rink</div><div>Staff & Faculty Hockey Program, 8:15-10:45pm, Tate Rink</div></div>	<div>12<div>Video Teleconferencing, 8am-4:30pm, ACS</div><div></div><div>Wee Ones Play Group, 9:30-11am, ACS</div><div>Parent & Me, 9:30-10:45 (18 mos-4 yrs) YC</div></div>	<div>13<div></div><div>Spring Story Hour, WP Library, 10am & 1:30pm</div><div>Preseparation Briefing, 2-3pm, ACS</div></div>	<div>14<div>Valentine's Day Theater Matinee, 2-3pm, ACS</div><div></div><div>Valentine's Day Dinner, 6-9pm, WP Club</div></div>	<div>15<div></div><div>Parent & Me, 9:30-10am (ages 2-4) YC</div><div>Theater Van to Broadway, 5-11pm</div><div>Multicultural Pot Luck Dinner, 6-9pm, YC (grades 6-12)</div></div>	<div>16<div></div><div>Museums in NYC, 9am-5pm, ITR</div><div>Soul Food Celebration for Black History Month, 3pm, SAS (grades 1-5)</div></div>	<div>17<div>Waiting Families Support Group, 5-7pm, ACS, Held @ Bldg. 500</div><div></div></div>
<div>18<div></div><div>Mite Hockey Tournament, 6am, YC (Feb 18, 19 & 20)</div><div>Lunar New Year Celebration in Chinatown, 10am-5pm, ITR</div><div>Staff & Faculty Hockey Program, 8:15-10:45pm, Tate Rink</div></div>	<div>19<div>President's Day Holiday</div><div></div><div>All MWR Activities Closed Except for Ski and Morgan Farm</div></div>	<div>20<div>Parent & Me, 9:30-10:45 (ages 18 mos-4) YC</div><div>Spring Story Hour, WP Library, 10am & 1:30pm</div><div>Round Pond Tent/RV Site Reservations Begin (all eligible) 938-8811</div><div></div></div>	<div>21<div></div><div>Cardio Sculpt, 9am, Spinning, 5pm, Every Wednesday at the MWR Fitness Center</div></div>	<div>22<div>NY Philharmonic Open Rehearsal, 8am-3pm, ITR</div><div></div><div>Family Night Buffet w/ Macaroni the Clown, 5-7pm, WP Club</div></div>	<div>23<div></div><div>BGCA Graphic Design, 2:15, YC</div><div>Hail & Farewell B-Day Celebration, 3:30-5pm YC</div><div>Mongolian BBQ, 5-9pm, WP Club</div></div>	<div>24<div></div><div>Polar Fest, 12pm-9pm, WP Ski, Registration going on now!</div></div>

Solution to Weekly Sudoku								
4	2	3	7	5	1	6	9	8
1	8	9	4	6	2	3	7	5
5	7	6	3	9	8	2	1	4
6	1	4	8	7	3	9	5	2
9	3	8	2	1	5	7	4	6
2	5	7	9	4	6	1	8	3
8	9	5	6	3	7	4	2	1
7	6	2	1	8	4	5	3	9
3	4	1	5	2	9	8	6	7

What's Happening

Supes' semi-annual command brief

The Superintendent's semi-annual command interest briefing is scheduled for Feb. 23 from 12:45 to 1:45 p.m., in Thayer Hall's Robinson Auditorium.

IAW USMA Reg. 600-1, this briefing is mandatory for all officers, all non-commissioned officers [E-7 and above] and civilian employees [GS-9 and above].

Others who wish to attend should coordinate with their activities.

Everyone must be seated by 12:40 p.m. The briefing will be broadcast live on the Command Channel and will be rebroadcast Feb. 26 at 1 p.m. and Feb. 27 at 9 a.m. and 6:30 p.m.

DUSA grant applications

DUSA community welfare grant applications are now being accepted through Thursday.

Application forms are available at the DUSA Gift Shop and by e-mailing My5boysk8@aol.com.

For more info., contact Corey

Knowlton at (845) 446-2205.

National Prayer Breakfast

There will be a National Prayer Breakfast Thursday at the West Point Club from 6 to 7:20 a.m.

The guest speaker will be 2003 USMA grad Capt. Scott Smiley, who lost his eyesight to injury in Iraq.

For more information contact the Cadet Chaplain's office at 938-3412, the Community Chaplain's office at 938-2003, or the USMA Chaplain's office at 938-3316.

Guest lecturer

The Department of Geography and Environmental Engineering invites the West Point community to a lecture Tuesday by Harvard University Assistant Professor Marcia Castro on "Research in Geography." It will be given to cadets enrolled in Urban Geography [EV390B] and cadets in Gamma Theta Upsilon.

The lecture will be in Washington Hall room 6301 on the sixth floor from 9:45 to 10:40 a.m. and again

At Your Leisure

from 10:50 to 11:45 a.m.

There will also be a lecture for GTU attendees at 6 p.m. in the Regimental Room in the Cadet Mess Hall.

For more information contact Maj. James Chastain at 938-3094.

Young Life Club

The Young Life Club, open to all high school students in grades nine through 12, is having a 'Chics [sic] vs. Dudes' night at Bldg. 147 [the Cadet Interfaith Center] Monday at 7:29 p.m.[sic].

For more information go to the Web site at www.oneill.younglife.com.

AFAP Steering Committee

The West Point community is invited to attend the Commander's Army Family Action Plan Steering Committee Update Feb. 22 from 10 a.m. to noon in the Jewish Chapel

Social Hall.

Please join us to hear about and discuss the status of your community's AFAP issues.

For more information contact Army Community Service at [845] 938-4621, DSN 688-4621.

Issues being briefed can be found by clicking on the 2006 AFAP Symposium out brief link at <http://www.usma.edu/mwr/ACTIVITY/IVC/IVC.HTM>.

Photo exhibit opens Feb. 16

Local photographer Ted Spiegel will have an exhibit of his photographs of West Point and the Hudson River Valley on display at Eisenhower Hall's Class of 1929 Gallery beginning Feb. 16 and running through April 7.

There will be a reception Feb. 25 from 2 to 4 p.m. at same the location.

To R.S.V.P. call 938-2782.

Chapel Gospel Congregation

The West Point Chapel Gospel Congregation invites the West Point community to join them in a celebration of African-American History Month Feb. 25 at 12:30 p.m. at the West Point Chapel.

For more information contact Lt. Col. Archie Wilmer at 938-6726.

New fingerprinting hours

Beginning March 1 fingerprinting will only be conducted on Wednesdays from 1 to 2 p.m. at the Provost Marshal's Office.

Free tax preparation

MilitaryOneSource offers free tax preparation and filing.

Visit www.militaryonesource.com to file your federal and state taxes with TaxCut Basic Online by H&R Block.

Call 800-342-9647.

The West Point Women's Club
presents Viva Las Vegas Night
February 23, 2007 The Thayer Hotel
7:00pm to Midnight
Casino Gaming - Bingo - Silent Auction - Live Auction - Chinese Auction
No Limit Texas Hold'em Poker Tournament
All Proceeds Go To Grants and Scholarships!
for tickets and information visit
Shopthepoint.com
WILEY
Posters printed by Copying & Printing Emporium
Posters designed by Kerri Schmitt, 2007

Keller Corner

Refractive Surgery seminar

The KACH ophthalmology service will conduct a Refractive Surgery Seminar Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. in Thayer Hall's Room 144.

This seminar is open to Cadets 2nd Class and Active Duty Army personnel interested in obtaining laser vision correction.

Find out how laser surgery works, the pros and cons of surgery

and how to get treated here.

For more information on the Cadet Refractive Eye Surgery Program, visit our Web page on the internal USCC Web site or call 938-2207.

KACH closures

All outpatient clinics, laboratory, pharmacy and radiology will be closed Feb. 16 and 19. The emergency room will remain open.

Upcoming Blood Drive

The American Red Cross in

Greater New York-Putnam/West Point is requesting volunteers from Orange and Putnam counties and the West Point community to help support the blood drive at West Point March 19-22 at Eisenhower Hall.

The times will be 11 a.m. to 7 p.m., March 19-21 and from 11 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 22.

To volunteer call [845] 938-4100.

Free Developmental screenings

Free Developmental screenings will be conducted at the Child Care Center in conjunction with Audiology, EDIS and the West Point Schools for ages birth to five years old Feb. 22 from 8:45 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Screenings will be by appointment only.

Call 938-6868/2698 to schedule one.

U.S. Military Academy Band West Point, New York Guest Artist Series

The Jazz Knights and
Cadet Gospel Choir
presents
*A Celebration of
African-American
History Month*



**February
11th**

featuring
drummer
Dennis
Mackrell

Ethnic Food Tasting - 4:00 p.m.

Hosted by the USMA Equal
Opportunity Office

**The Gospel According to Jazz
Concert - 4:30 p.m.**

Eisenhower Hall Ballroom

Free and Open to the Public

See schedule at
www.usma.edu/band
or call 845-938-2617

DODEA Survey

Reminder to parents of
West Point School children:

The anonymous Customer
Satisfaction Survey is available
online at www.dodea.edu by
clicking the "CSS" link or a
printed version can be obtained
from the school.

You have until Feb. 28 to
complete one, but don't wait
until the last minute.

This is your chance to
impact the quality of education
in schools operated by the
Department of Defense.

Separate surveys will be
given to teachers and parents
and to students in grades four
and five, students in grades six
to eight and students in grades
nine through 12.

Fraud, Waste & Abuse Hotline

To report suspected Fraud, Waste and Abuse, call the Internal Review & Audit Compliance (IRAC) Office Hotline. Reports are confidential and callers do not have to identify themselves, but if they provide names, they can remain anonymous. To report suspected abuse of equipment/supplies accountability, travel/pay and cash accountability, call extension **938-8082**. Please provide all pertinent information.

NOW SHOWING

in the movie theater
at Mahan Hall, Bldg. 752

Friday -- Charlotte's Web, G, 7:30 p.m.

Friday -- The Pursuit of Happyness, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Night at the Museum, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday -- Code Name: The Cleaner, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 16 -- Happily N'ever After, PG, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 16 -- Night at the Museum, PG, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 23 -- Stomp the Yard, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 23 -- Freedom Writers, PG-13, 9:30 p.m.

Feb. 24 -- The Pursuit of Happyness, PG-13, 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 24 -- Alpha Dogs, R, 9:30 p.m.

The theater schedule can also be found at www.aafes.com.

Command Channel 8/23

Feb. 9 - Feb. 16

Friday

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

1 p.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch

Monday - Feb. 16

8:30 a.m. Army Newswatch

1 p.m. Army Newswatch

6 p.m. Army Newswatch



WPS preps for upcoming accreditation visit

Linda Koch, [left] Elementary School Improvement Leadership Team chair, and Sally Anne Silk, Middle School Improvement Leadership Team chair, collaborate for the upcoming NCA visit to the West Point Schools. The North Central Association Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement team will visit both the West Point Elementary and Middle schools from Monday through Thursday. The purpose of this team is to evaluate the schools' improvement action plans. The schools developed goals which were supported by their data. Faculty and staff members and parents are involved in the school improvement process, an ongoing process that focuses on increased student achievement.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WPS

DPW Notes

Road closure in the vicinity of Bldg. 695 [ITR & the Self Help Center]

Beginning Monday and extending through Tuesday, the service road, which runs from Bldg. 695 behind quarters 336 – 352, will be closed to all through traffic.

Access to the quarters will be maintained for the residents of those buildings. The Directorate of Public Works will be replacing the gas line located at the intersection of Washington and Lee roads and the service road.

The Post Shuttle Bus will alter its route using Washington Road for both northbound and southbound service in the area to accommodate this work.

Gas service will be disrupted during the day Tuesday for Bldg. 695 and Quarters 134, 136, 138, 139, 142, 336, 340, 344, 348, 358, & 1050.

The disruption of service will begin between 7 and 8 a.m. and is anticipated to be restored by approximately 3 p.m.

DPW Gas Shop personnel will require access to each of the buildings mentioned above between the hours listed to ensure that pilot lights and boilers, hot water heaters and stoves are secured and restarted after the outage.

The accomplishment of this work is weather dependent.

The point of contact for the project is Bob Barton, 938-4977.



DARE graduation

All fifth-grade students were recognized as graduates of the Drug Awareness Resistance Education program in a ceremony held Jan. 26 in the West Point Middle School auditorium. Students performed skits, sung songs and read essays that demonstrated the decision-making models and life skills that they learned from their DARE Officer Military Policewoman Sgt. Jennifer Vosyka.

PHOTO PROVIDED BY WPS

At Your Leisure

MWR Blurbs

Polar Fest registration

Registration is now underway for the 2007 Polar Fest at the West Point Ski Slope.

Register early and save.

Advance registration is required for competitive events.

Event activities will be open from noon until 9 p.m.

Free admission for family members of deployed Soldiers.

Call the Ski Sales Office at 938-3726 for more information.

Multi crafts

Preserve memories at a price you can afford. The MWR Craft Shop offers a wide variety of mat design motifs and framing options to create a picture entirely unique to you.

Drop it off or do it yourself with the help of our talented staff -- quality and beautiful results are

guaranteed.

The Craft Shop also does engraving, laminating screen printing, trophy and plaque purchases and more.

Call 938-4812 for more information.

West Point Club

Valentine's Day Dinner and Dance, Wednesday from 6 to 9 p.m. in Pierce Dining Room.

Call 446-5545 for reservations.

ITR

ITR's Valentine's Day matinee theater van to New York City will leave West Point at 9 a.m. and leave NYC at 5 p.m.

Call 938-3601 for more information.

Youth Sports registration

Child Services Youth Sports registration is now open for the following spring sports: baseball, soccer, lacrosse and spring hockey.

Call Youth Sports at 938-3550 for more information.

Defensive driving classes

MWR defensive driving classes are now being held at Army Community Services in Bldg. 622. Classes are March 3, April 21, May 1 and 2 and June 16.

Register with ITR at 938-3601.

Morgan Farm boarding special

Get four days of pet boarding over the President's Day weekend for the price of three.

Drop your pet off Feb. 16 and pick them up Feb. 20.

Army and Community Sports

Locke to attend Rugby WC camp

BOULDER, Colo. -- After attending the latest Men's National Sevens Team assembly, confirming schedules with overseas Americans and checking on injured players, the Men's Rugby National Team Head Coach Peter Thorburn has officially released the list of 65 players, including Army senior flyhalf Andrew Locke, who will attend his first World Cup training camp Feb. 18-24 in San Diego, Calif.

"Although we had previously set the number at 60, it is better to have the athletes we want at this camp, rather than turn players away," Thorburn said. "Like I said before, we have chosen an ideal mix of players for this first camp with a good blend of experienced and relatively 'new' players.

"The younger players are here because they have earned it and, in fact, several of them have taken the place of some more established players," he added. "Part of the vision for this camp is to allow a number of players to gain exposure to playing at this level so that after

the World Cup, when the sport inevitably sees a number of players retire, the U.S. will still have a strong pool of players."

"I want to emphasize that even though these are the best players available to us right now," Thorburn explained, "there are players out there who have not been invited to this camp that still have an opportunity to earn their way to the World Cup.

"I would personally like to encourage those who have not been included at this stage," he added, "to maintain constant improvement in skills and conditioning within their own clubs and programs, as it is still far from being a 'closed shop' as far as selection for the next step on our pathway to the World Cup - the NA4 squads - is concerned."

Along with the 65 players, there is also a boost to the number of staff and specialty coaches being brought in to focus on a range of rugby specific components of the game.

Currently, Thorburn is

expecting 12 or 13 staff and coaches to attend this camp, including three specialty coaches from New Zealand -- Mike Cron, the All-Blacks scrum coach, Mick Byrne -- the All-Blacks kicking and passing/catching coach and Dave Ellis, whose focus is decision making and ball skills while under pressure.

After this first camp, the World Cup program will take a five-week break as the vital Rugby Super League's season gets underway.

Thorburn will, however, be attending matches, as well as pinpointing opportunities for himself and his staff to look at



Army rugby senior flyhalf Andrew Locke is one of 65 players invited to U.S. National Team World Cup tryouts Feb. 18-24 in San Diego, Calif.

ERIC S. BARTELT/PV

the Division I, II and III club players.

SPORTS NOTES

• The ARMY MEN'S and WOMEN'S TENNIS teams invite you to come to the Lichtenberg Tennis Center for their upcoming matches.

Admission is free.

The men face Yale [Sat., noon], Princeton [Sun., noon] and St. Joseph's [Wed., 4 p.m.].

The women will compete against Stony Brook [Sat., noon], Air Force [Feb. 18, 10 a.m.] and UConn [Feb. 19, 1 p.m.].

• Volkssport Club of West Point will have a group walk in the village of Rhinebeck, N.Y., Sunday.

Registration for the 10k walk will be at 10:15 a.m. at Delamater House, 44 Montgomery St., Rhinebeck.

All participants are invited to a meet pre-walk breakfast at 8:45 a.m. at Eveready Diner, Route 9.

Call 446-4709 for more information.

Intramural update

Final Noontime basketball standings

North Division		South Division	
	W - L		W - L
1. DAD/DIA	13 - 3	1. D/Law/SJA	14 - 2
2. Sys. Engrs.	12 - 4	2. English	13 - 3
3. SOSH	11 - 5	3. BAND	11 - 5
4. MEDDAC	9 - 6	4. Physics	10 - 6
5. DMI	9 - 7	5. G&ENE/DFL	8 - 8
6. BS&L	7 - 9	6. 3rd Reg.	6 - 10
7. IETD	7 - 9	7. EE&CS	5 - 11
8. Math #1	2 - 14	8. Math #2	5 - 11
9. DPE	1 - 15	9. History	0 - 16

PLAYOFF RESULTS

AS OF WED.

NORTH DIV.

MATH #1 23, DPE 22, OT

MATH #1 23, DPE 12

[MATH #1 WINS SERIES 2-0]

SYSTEMS ENGR. 2, IETD 0

SYSTEMS ENGR. 2, IETD 0

[SYSTEMS WINS SERIES 2-0]

SOUTH DIV.

PHYSICS 24, G&ENE/DFL 22

PHYSICS 22, G&ENE/DFL 18

[PHYSICS WINS SERIES 2-0]

BAND 32, 3RD REGIMENT 17

3RD REGIMENT 25, BAND 17

[SERIES TIED AT 1-1]

Gymnastics recovers from injury plagued 2006

By Eric S. Bartelt
Sports Editor

Injuries have a way of derailing the most promising of seasons. Last year, Army gymnastics were set to defend their Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference title and were trying to make the NCAA Championships as a team for an unprecedented third straight year.

Yet, as fate would have it, injuries doomed Army's chance to continue its progress in 2006 and ravaged one of the team's best gymnasts, current senior team captain Brandon Whitten.

Whitten has faced a tough road, which has included surgeries to repair his elbow, ankle, foot and shoulder within the last year-and-a-half. However, despite his misfortune and the thought that he might miss all of 2007 because of his shoulder surgery prior to the season, Whitten is back competing and will compete this weekend against Navy [1 p.m. Saturday at the Lou Gross Sports Center].

"Having [Whitten] back changes

the dynamics of our lineup and he makes us go from having an okay team to a pretty good team," said Army gymnastics head coach Doug Van Everen. "Everybody is healthy right now for the most part. [Junior] Mike Assenmacher is doing great [in the all-around]. [Senior] George Rhynedance did a spectacular job on the high bar and vault against Air Force."

Whitten missed the Air Force meeting last weekend, but will be ready for Navy this Saturday. His presence will give the team a chance for a stronger score, especially on the pommel horse.

Although Army beat Air Force 198.05-185.80, Army will need to improve its overall score to continue moving up from its [Division I] 12th overall national status. Whitten offers that promise to the squad.

"The team needs him in there and it speaks a lot about him because he's been banging his body doing this stuff and he's done it for the team," Van Everen said. "He's going to compete in the pommel horse, floor exercise and, maybe,

parallel bars. Having him in those events changes the team significantly and it puts some strength in there and takes out a weak link."

Whitten, whose brother, Nate, was team captain in 2004, is psyched up about competing again despite the myriad of injuries he's faced.

"It was hard to come back at first, but once I got my range of motion back then everything seemed to come back quickly with the basics," Whitten said. "Once I got back into the rhythm of things, it flowed. As long as I try not to push it too far, too fast, I'll be good."

Good is definitely a word that he offers as the former 2004 ECAC "Rookie of the Year" joins two former ECAC individual champions, seniors Rhynedance [high bar, 2006] and Mike Oliveira [parallel bars, 2005], to put the team back on top of its conference. Currently, the Black Knights stand second in the ECAC behind Temple.

For Whitten, it's just the icing on the cake that he's able to compete this year. Although he's not putting too many expectations on himself with all the injuries he's endured, he is expecting the team to return to its 2005 form.

"I think we can be as good as [we were in] 2005," Whitten said. "It would be unexpected, unlike the 2005 team that was favored when we truly had a stacked team. This year, coming back from all the injuries, overall we're doing pretty well. [Although] I don't think

we've hit [our stride] yet, we've got a good shot [at winning the ECACs]."

Two gymnasts that have been difference makers this season have been senior Joe Baumann, who received a career-high 9.0 on the parallel bars against Air Force, and Assenmacher, who took the all-around scoring and had season best scores on the floor exercise [9.15] and vault [8.9] against the Falcons.

Van Everen describes Baumann as one of the toughest kids he's ever worked with and Assenmacher as a kid who has a chance to make the NCAAs on the floor exercise.

One of Assenmacher's great attributes is his ability to know where he is in relation to the floor and boundaries on the floor exercise.

"I'm good at air awareness because every day at the gym when I was younger I would jump on

the trampoline and mess around," Assenmacher explained. "I have a knack for it."

Assenmacher, who finished second in the floor exercise individual finals at the 2005 ECAC Championships, credits his mom, Karen, for getting him started in gymnastics when he was a kid that needed direction.

"I was one of those rambunctious kids that you could never get to sit still," Assenmacher stated. "My mom put me into every type of sport and gymnastics sort of stuck for me. It was one of those things I focused on and I moved up pretty quickly, so I enjoyed it."

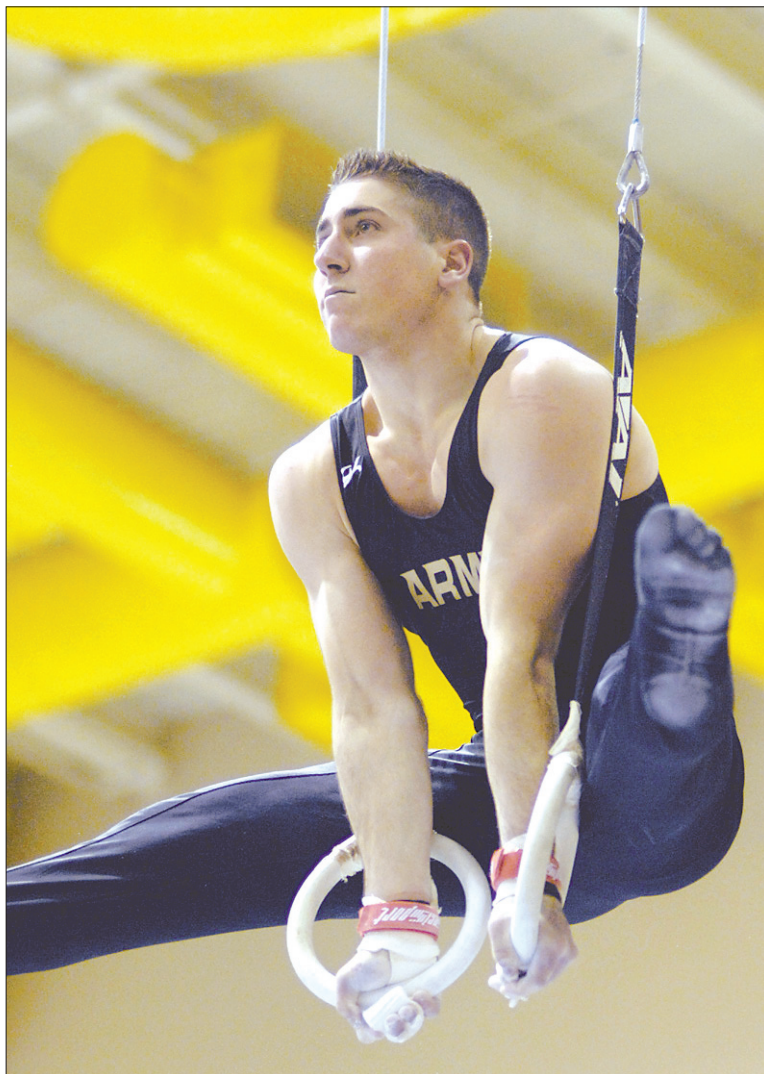
Whitten became enamored by gymnastics by following in his brother's footsteps while tagging along with his mom to Nate's practices.

"I eventually gave it a try and it stuck from there," Whitten said.

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Senior captain Brandon Whitten looks to overcome his history of injuries to help Army win back an ECAC title and an NCAA berth.



Junior Mike Assenmacher has the skills to become an Eastern Collegiate Athletic Conference champion in floor exercise as he competes in the all-around. He was runner-up on the floor exercise in 2005 at the ECACs.

PHOTOS BY JON MALINOWSKI

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Maine, has been a visitor to West Point since the age of nine as his family traveled to see the West Point Open on a yearly basis, which made his decision to come here simple.

“I’ve been to pretty much all the West Point Opens except for the first one,” Whitten said. “We’ve been around here, seen the area and with Nate coming here before me, there were a lot of pluses to coming to West Point.”

The Black Knights, who are 2-1 in duals and also had a third place finish at the West Point Open, will face a Navy foe Saturday that beat them last year in the dual meet. Army is looking to exact some revenge.

“Their team will have its best meet Saturday,” Van Everen said. “They peak for us without a doubt and I expect a tight meet. They beat us last year after we had a three-year run on them. They’re not as good as they were last year [due to graduations], but they will still be good enough.”

Army faced Navy at the West Point Open and believes that they will do well against Navy in this year’s dual meet.

“We’ve got to go out there and do what we know we can do and hit all our sets,” Assenmacher said. “We should beat them easily.”